

## Rosita and Queen Latifah



FIRST DAY 123 OF ISSUE

**SESAME STREET**

DETROIT, MI 48233  
JUNE 22, 2019

Rosita is a turquoise, bilingual monster who first appeared on *Sesame Street* in 1991 in Episode 2888 (Season 23). Hailing from Mexico, her full name is Rosita, la Monstrua de las Cuevas (Rosita, the Monster of the Caves). She is five years old and celebrates her birthday on December 7. Rosita has often presented the Spanish Word of the Day and frequently featured playing her guitar. She's very good with history, as well as geography. *Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change* is a television special produced by Sesame Workshop as part of the Talk, Listen, Connect initiative. The special premiered on PBS on April 1, 2009. The special, hosted by daytime talk show host and musician Queen Latifah and musician John Mayer who were joined by Rosita and Elmo, is a follow-up to the 2006 television special *When Parents Are Deployed*.

Queen Latifah (born Dana Owens, 1970) is an Oscar-nominated actress, Grammy-winning hip-hop emcee, and standards singer who played Aunt Em in the 2005 TV-movie *The Muppets' Wizard of Oz*. She also is a cosmetics model for Cover Girl. Queen Latifah has appeared on *Sesame Street* along with Prairie Dawn, Telly Monster, and Merry Monster in a song about the letter O, spoofing her own hit "That's the Way We Flow." She also appeared in *Coming Home: Military Families Cope With Change*, with the *Sesame Street* Muppets and John Mayer. And she appeared in "Yakety Yak - Take It Back," a 1991 recycling PSA that eventually aired on *Sesame Street*. The Muppets appeared in a series of Pizza Hut commercials, which she narrated.

## The Count and Harry Belafonte



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Count von Count is a mysterious but friendly vampire-like Muppet on *Sesame Street*, meant to parody Bela Lugosi's portrayal of Count Dracula. He first appeared on the show in the Season 4 premiere in 1972, counting blocks in a sketch with Bert and Ernie. The Count has a compulsive love of counting (arithmomania, an affliction of legendary vampires); he will count anything and everything, regardless of size, amount, or how much annoyance he causes others around him. When he finishes counting, The Count laughs and announces his total (which sometimes appears on screen). This finale is usually accompanied by a crash of thunder and a flash of lightning, even on sunny days. In 1982, Harry Belafonte (b. 1927), sitting under a palm tree, sang a calypso-tinged ditty, "Coconut Counting Man," with The Count and two cute birds as backup singers. But a vampire in the sun?

Harry Belafonte (b. 1927) is an American singer, actor and humanitarian. He popularized the calypso movement in the mid-1950s with hits such as "Banana Boat Song (Day-O)," "Jamaica Farewell" and "Mama Look at Boo-Boo." Belafonte has appeared with the Muppets on numerous occasions. In 1982, he sang "Mo Yet" on *Sesame Street*. (First: Episode 1700). In 1990, Belafonte performed "Turn the World Around" at Jim Henson's memorial service. In 1996, he was one of many celebrities in a celebrity montage rendition of "The Alphabet Song" on *Sesame Street*. A Grouch parody of Belafonte, named Harry Bellagrouchy, appeared in Episode 2802 of *Sesame Street*. In the *Elmo's World* episode "Bells," Belafonte is spoofed as Harry Bell-afonte in an animated segment.